WE STARTED SETTING UP THE SECURITY EQUIPMENT AS SOON AS WE GOT HOME.

I HAD NO IDEA HOW ANY OF IT WORKED, BUT JEREMY SEEMED PRETTY CONFIDENT.

IT WAS MEANT TO HELP US KEEP ANY EYE OUT FOR ANY FUTURE TROUBLE.

BUT IT ONLY MADE ME FEEL LIKE WE WERE BEING WATCHED.

Digging...

part three

WE MOVED MOST OF THE THINGS IN THE DINING ROOM, TO MAKE SPACE FOR...

I DON'T KNOW, A "SECURITY OPS" TABLE OR SOMETHING.

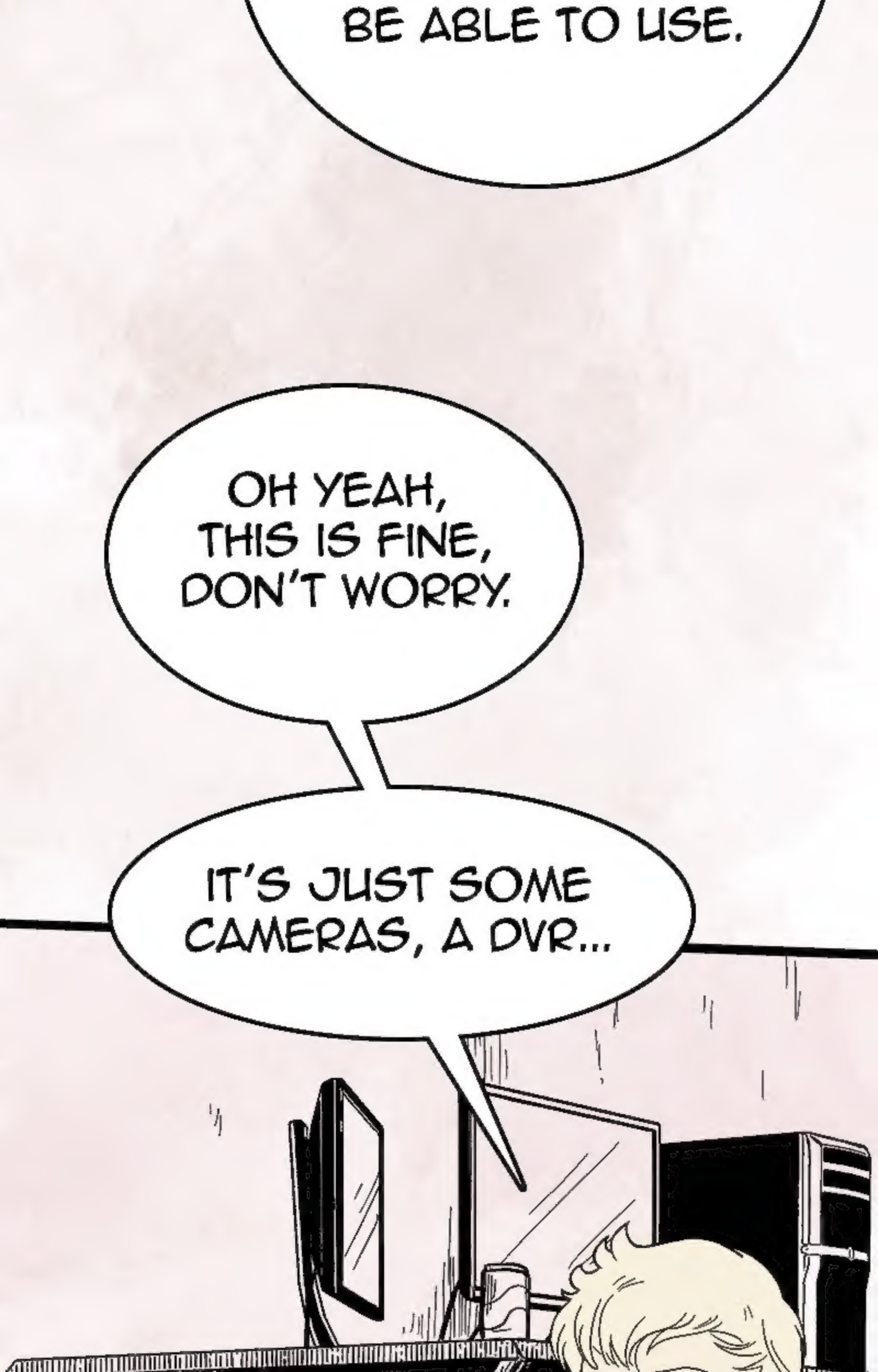
YOU'RE *SURE* NONE OF THIS CAN BE HACKED INTO, JEREMY?

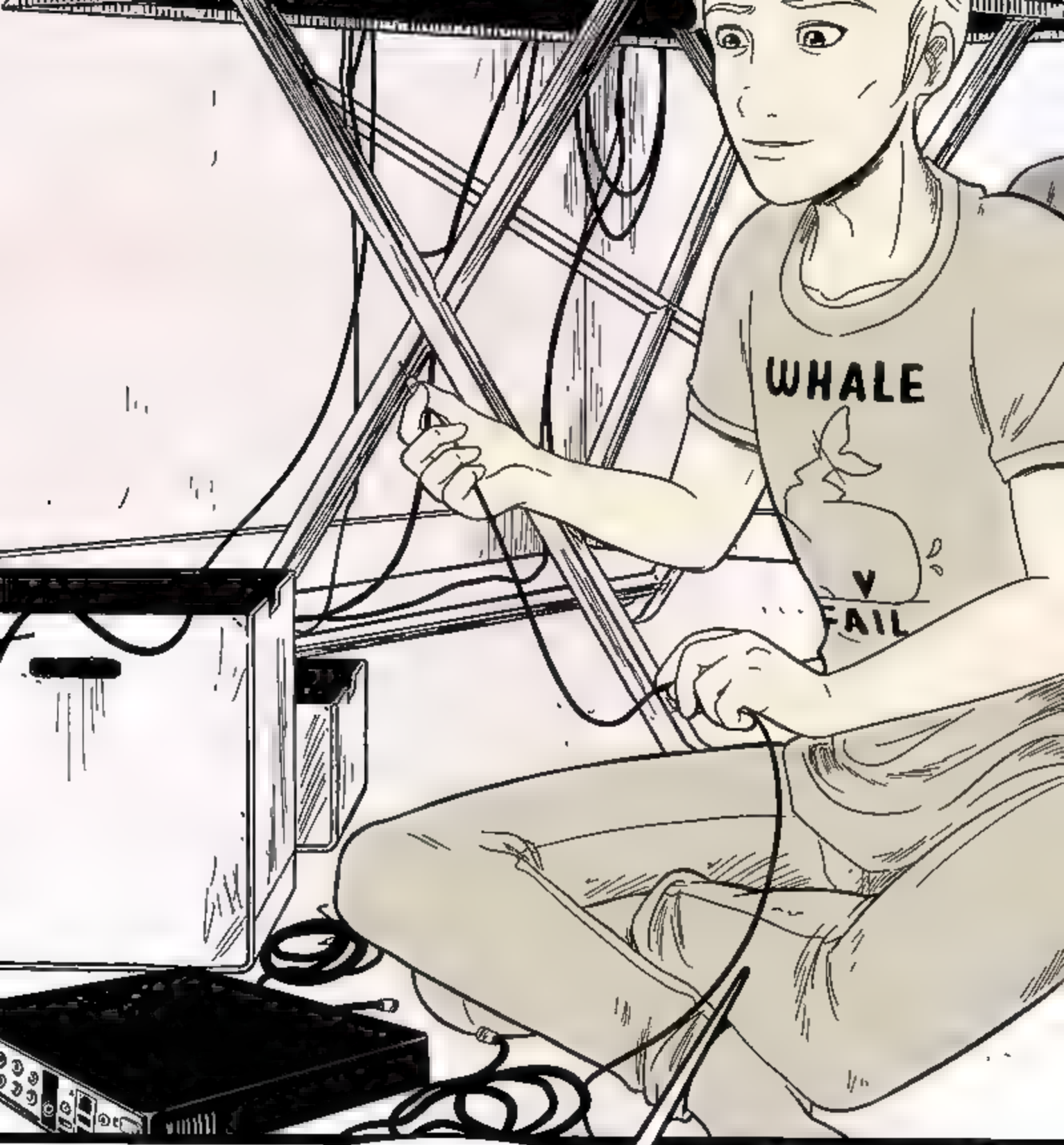
I FEEL A LITTLE UNEASY HAVING CAMERAS AROUND THAT SOMETHING MIGHT

BE ABLE TO USE.

OH YEAH, THIS IS FINE, DON'T WORRY.

IT'S JUST SOME CAMERAS, A DVR...



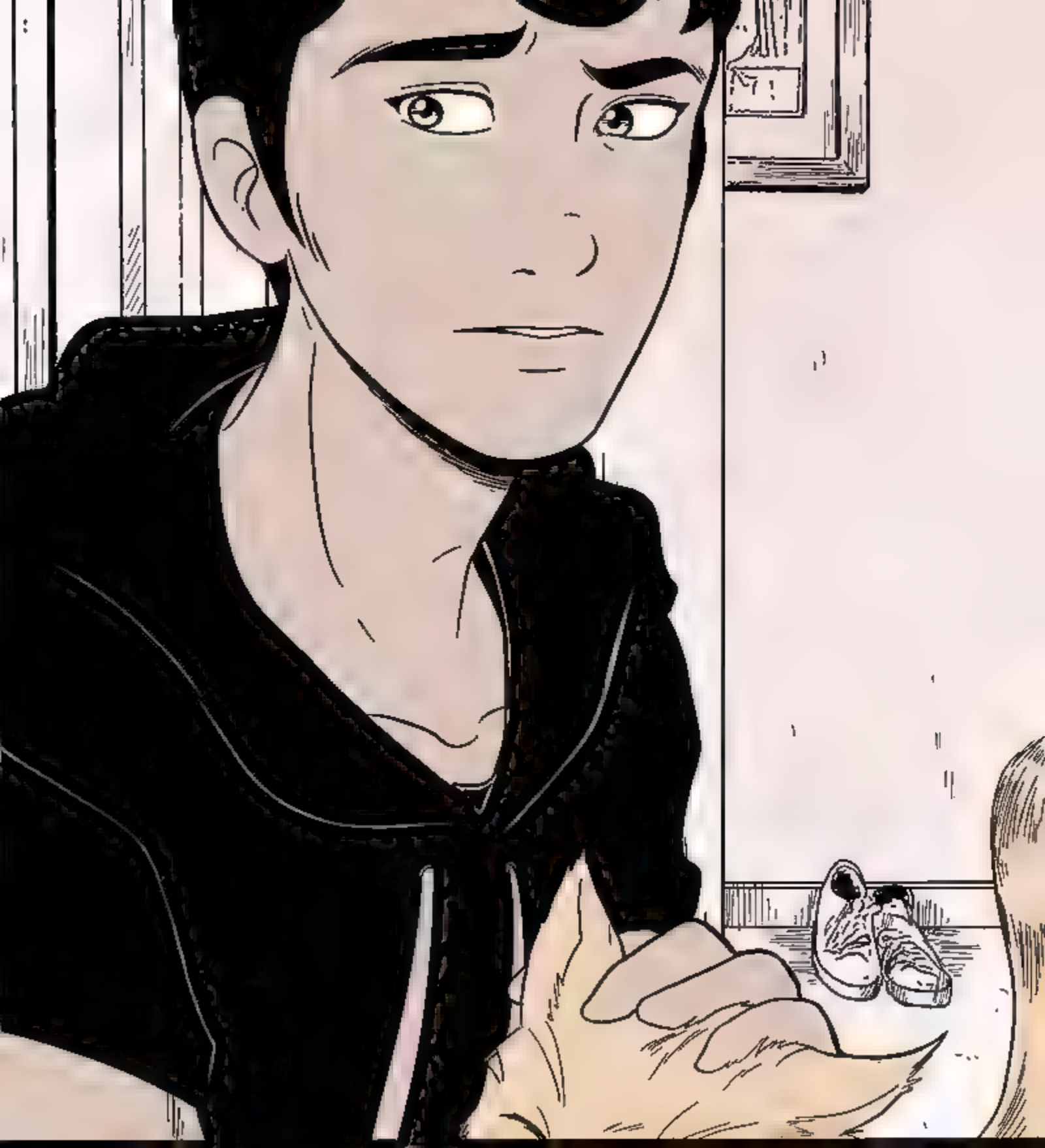


...AN OLD TOWER COMPUTER OF MINE IN CASE WE NEED THAT FOR ANYTHING...

BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE ANY INTERNET CONNECTION, NO OUTSIDE ACCESS, NOTHING.

I SERIOUSLY DOUBT ANYTHING CAN GET INTO A CLOSED SYSTEM.

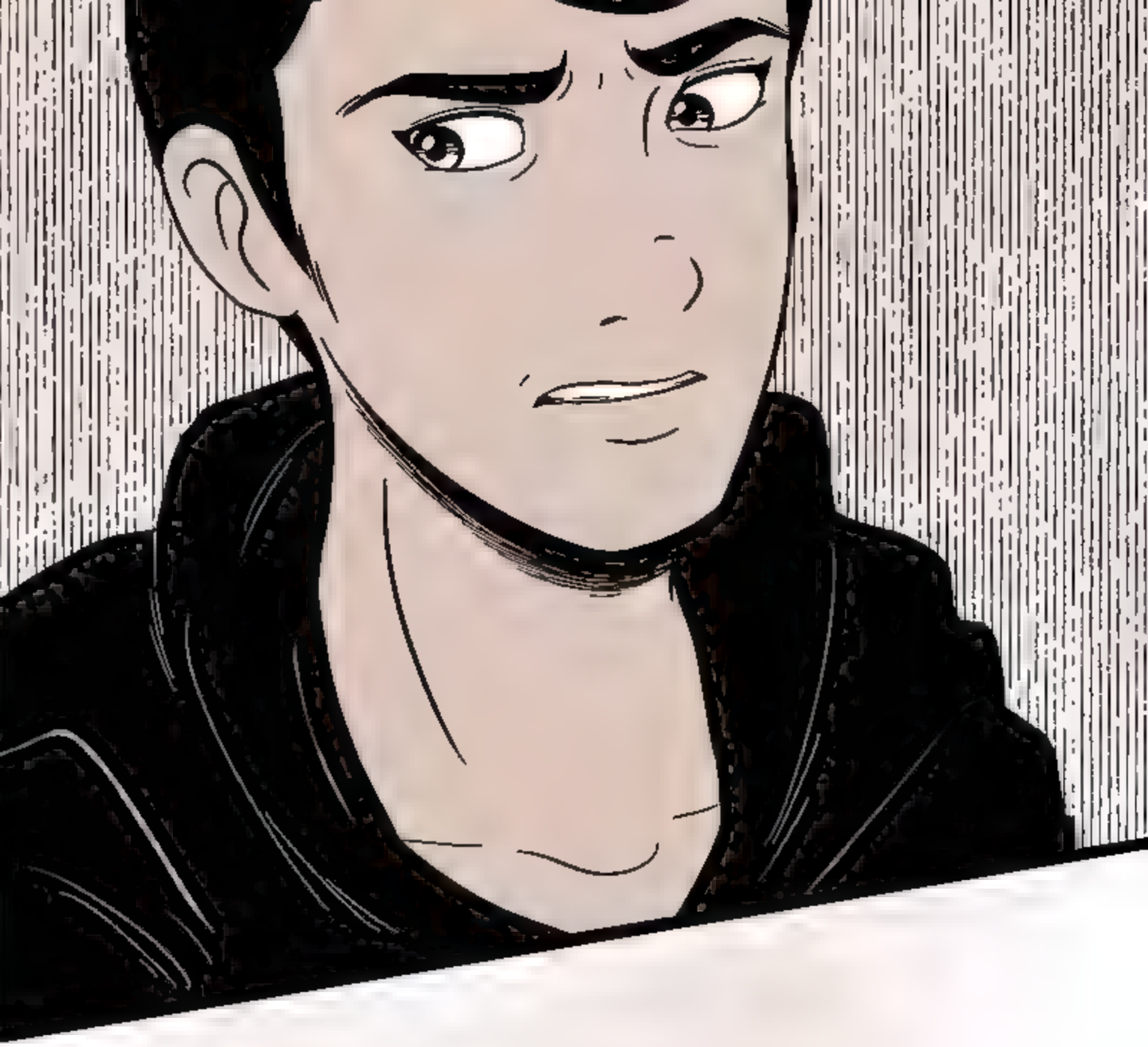
YOU SURE?



PRETTY SURE.
THEN AGAIN, WE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH.
DID YOU GUYS EVER GET ANY LEADS ON... WELL, ANYTHING HELPFUL?
SINCE I'VE BEEN GONE, I MEAN.

EHHHH...

YEAH, WE KINDA DID A LOT MORE RUNNING AWAY THAN RESEARCHING, YOU KNOW?

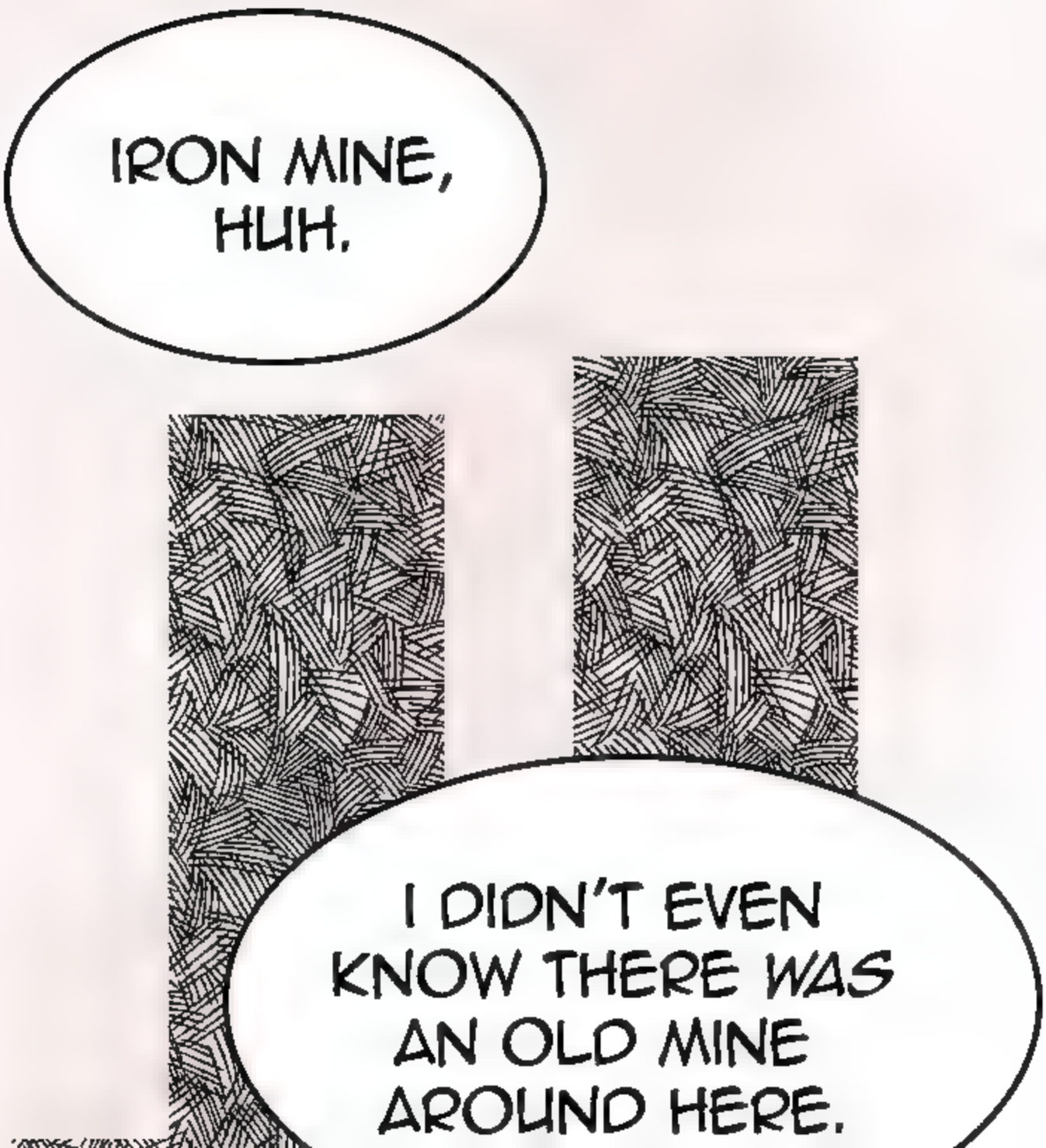


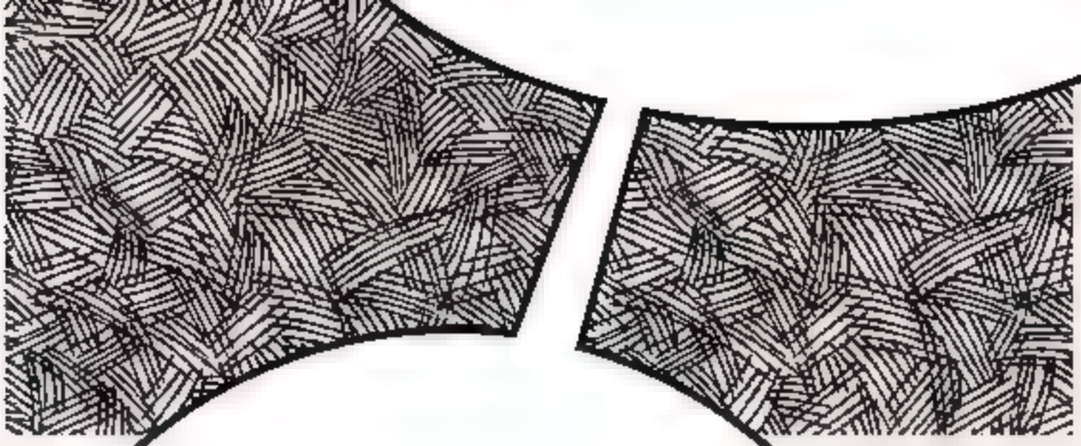
I GOT SOMETHING! I THINK.

THAT CAROUSEL

UNDERGROUND... IT'S IN AN OLD IRON MINE. I SAW THE ABANDONED EQUIPMENT.

'HARTWELL IRON COMPANY.'


IRON MINE, HUH.
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THERE WAS AN OLD MINE AROUND HERE.



THEN AGAIN, ABANDONED MINES ARE KINDA EVERYWHERE IN THIS STATE, SO IT'S NOT VERY SURPRISING.

WE COULD GO TO THE LIBRARY TO DIG UP SOME INFO OR RECORDS ABOUT THE COMPANY...

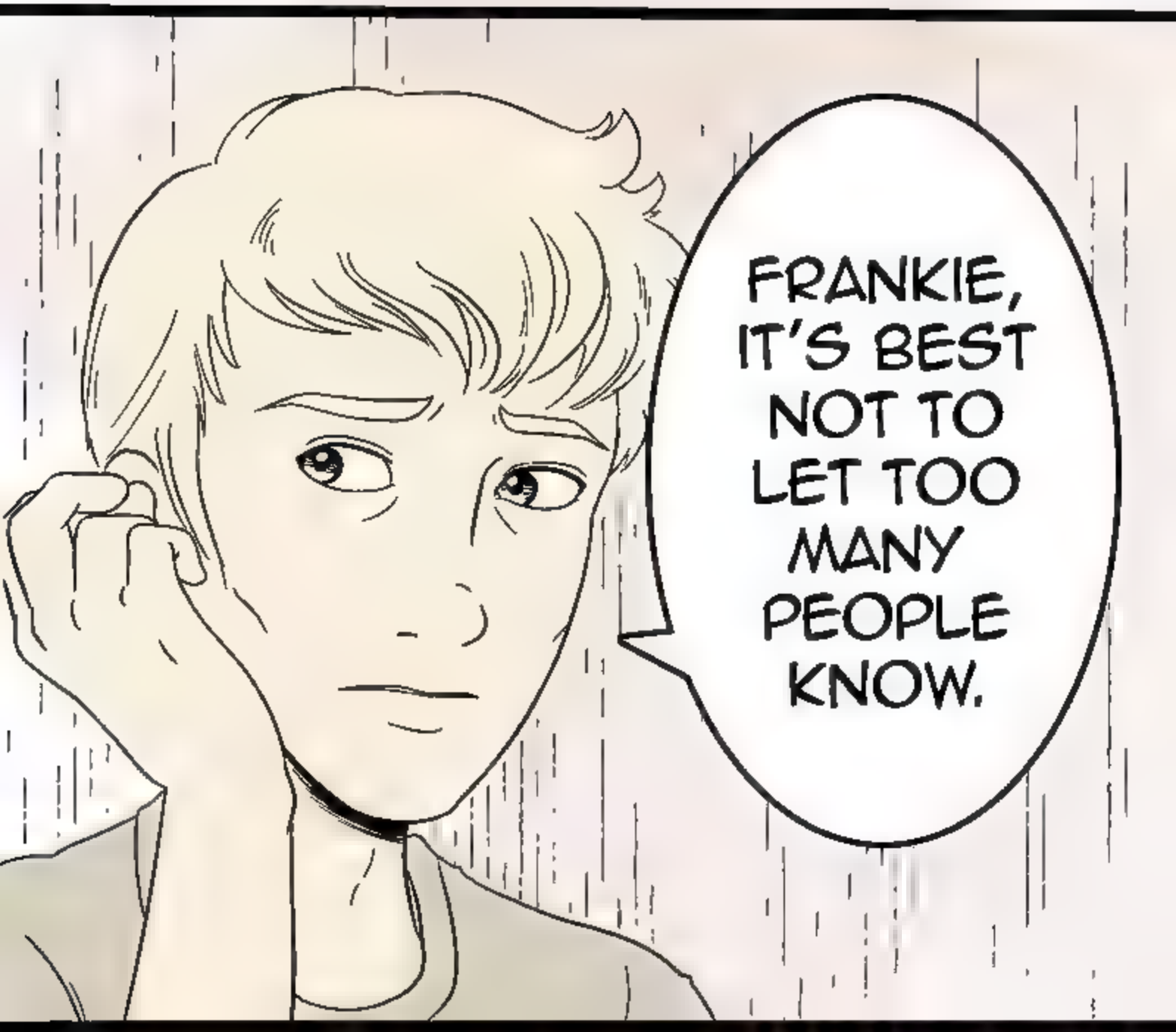
I'M...NOT CRAZY ABOUT THAT IDEA. SERIOUSLY.

IF WE ALL GO, THERE'S A CHANCE SOMEONE WILL RECOGNIZE J.
YOU DID SPEND A LOT OF TIME AT THE LIBRARY AFTER ALL, RIGHT?
IT FEELS RISKY.
UGH...

AT THIS POINT, WHO EVEN CARES IF PEOPLE KNOW JEREMY IS ALIVE?
HE'S NOT GOING

TO GET ARRESTED FOR NOT BEING DEAD.

IS HE EVEN DEAD AT *ALL*, ON PAPER?

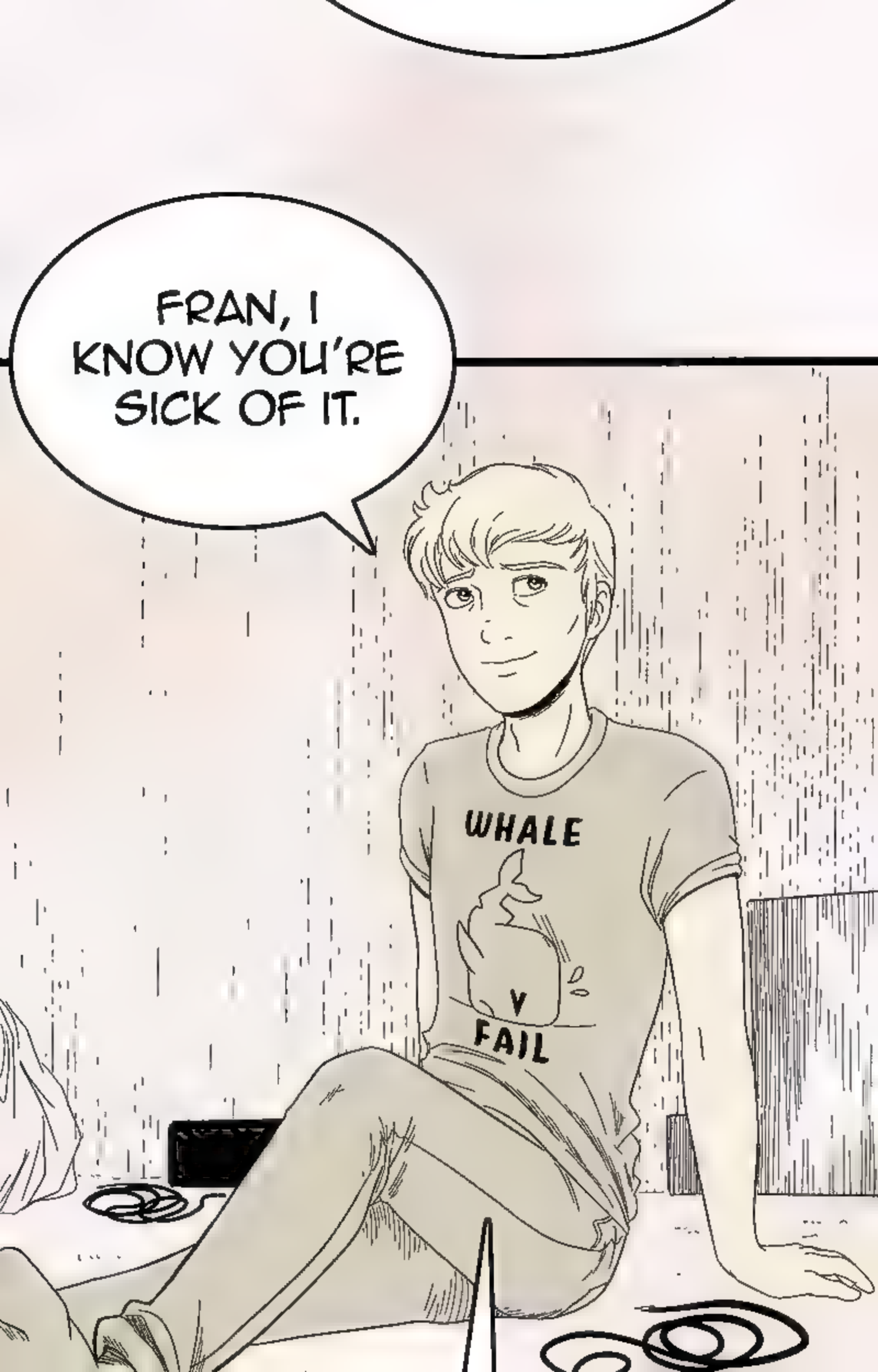


LANDLORDS, OFFICIALS, ANYONE WHO MIGHT ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT WHERE I WAS.

GOD, WHO *CARES* IF THE TOWN KNOWS? AREN'T THEY ALL MIND-CONTROLLED OR SOMETHING?

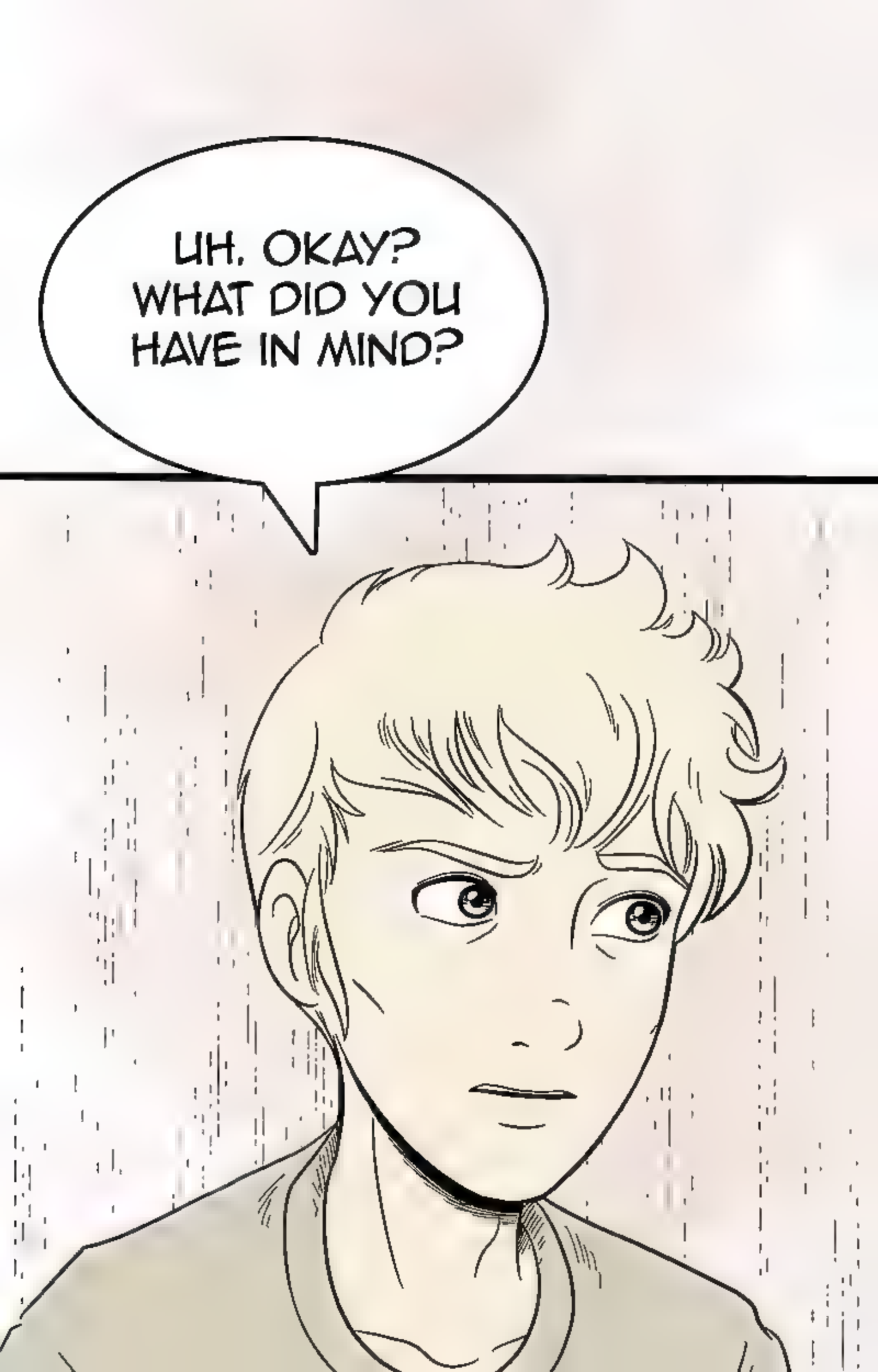
WHY HAVE WE WORKED SO *HARD* TO AVOID OTHER PEOPLE ALL THIS TIME, IF FOR NO REASON?

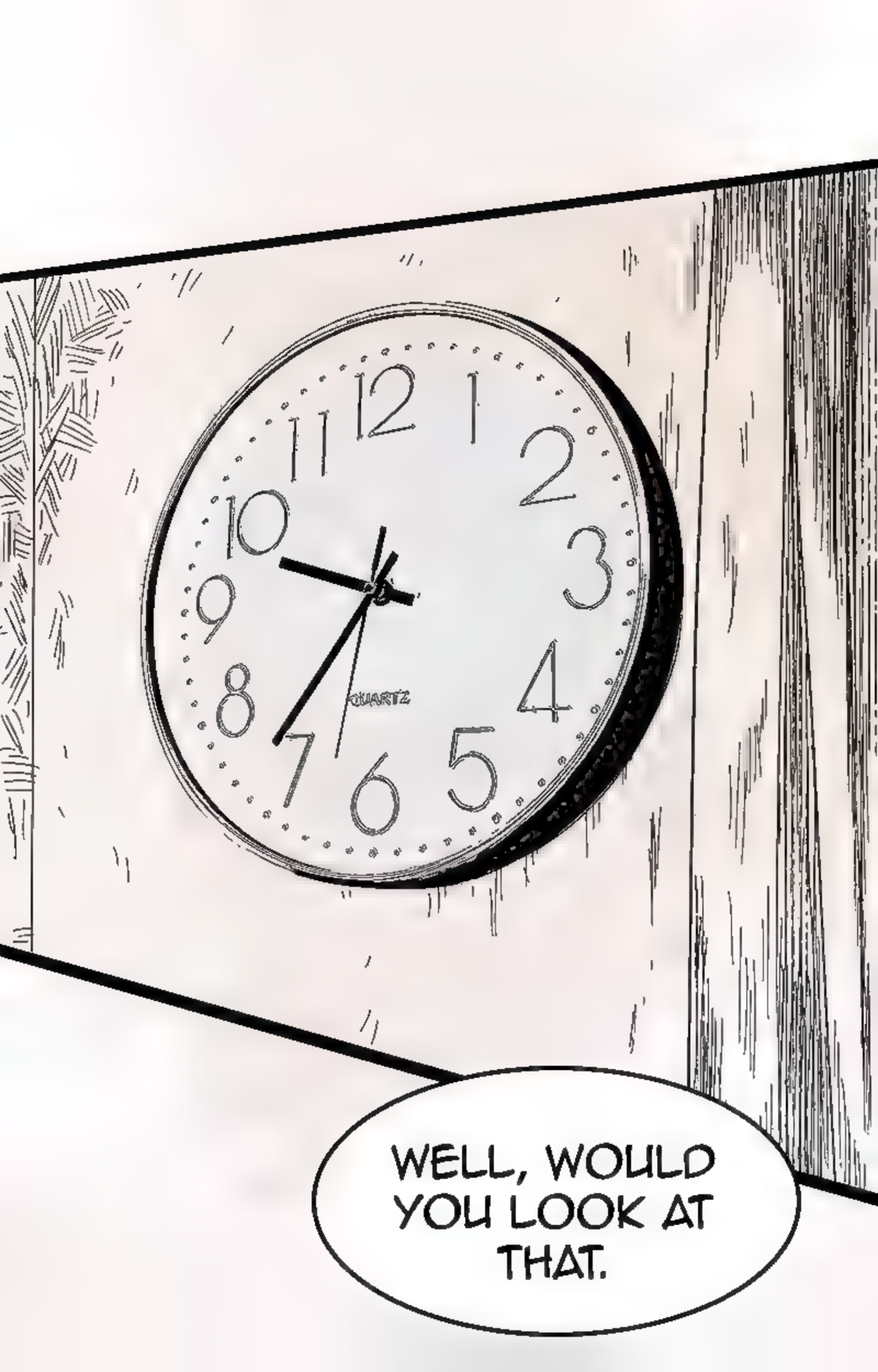
HOW MUCH CONTROL DOES THIS STUPID THING HAVE OVER EVERYONE?


FRAN, I KNOW YOU'RE SICK OF IT.
WHALE
V
FAIL

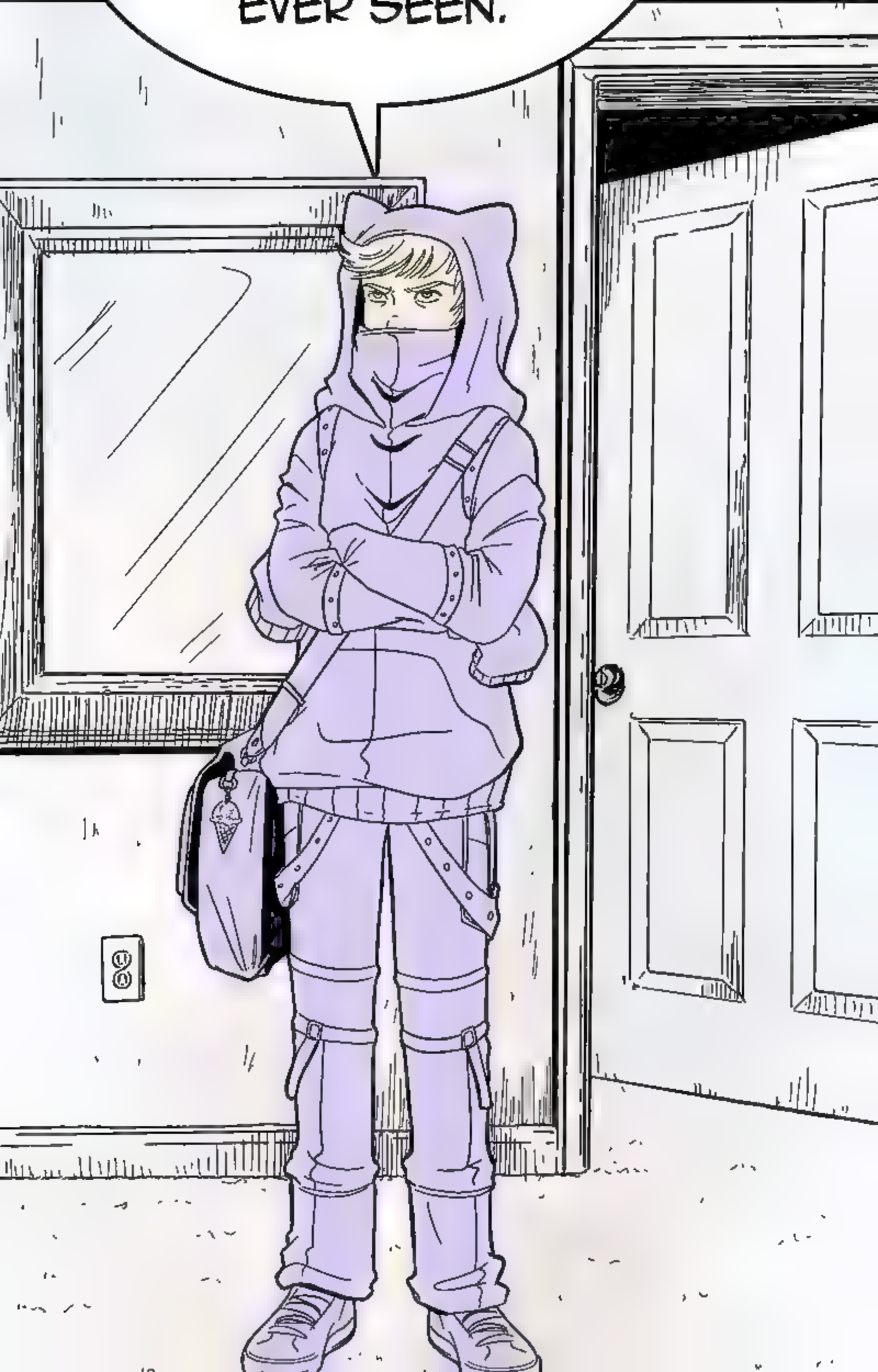
BUT CHEER UP! EVEN IF WE HAVE TO BE CAUTIOUS, AT LEAST WE'RE NOT ALONE.
WELL, ON THAT NOTE, IF EVERYONE'S GOING TO THE LIBRARY, THEN WE NEED A DISGUISE FOR JEREMY.

HOW'S THAT SOUND, BRO?


UH. OKAY? WHAT DID YOU HAVE IN MIND?


12
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
QUARTZ
WELL, WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT.

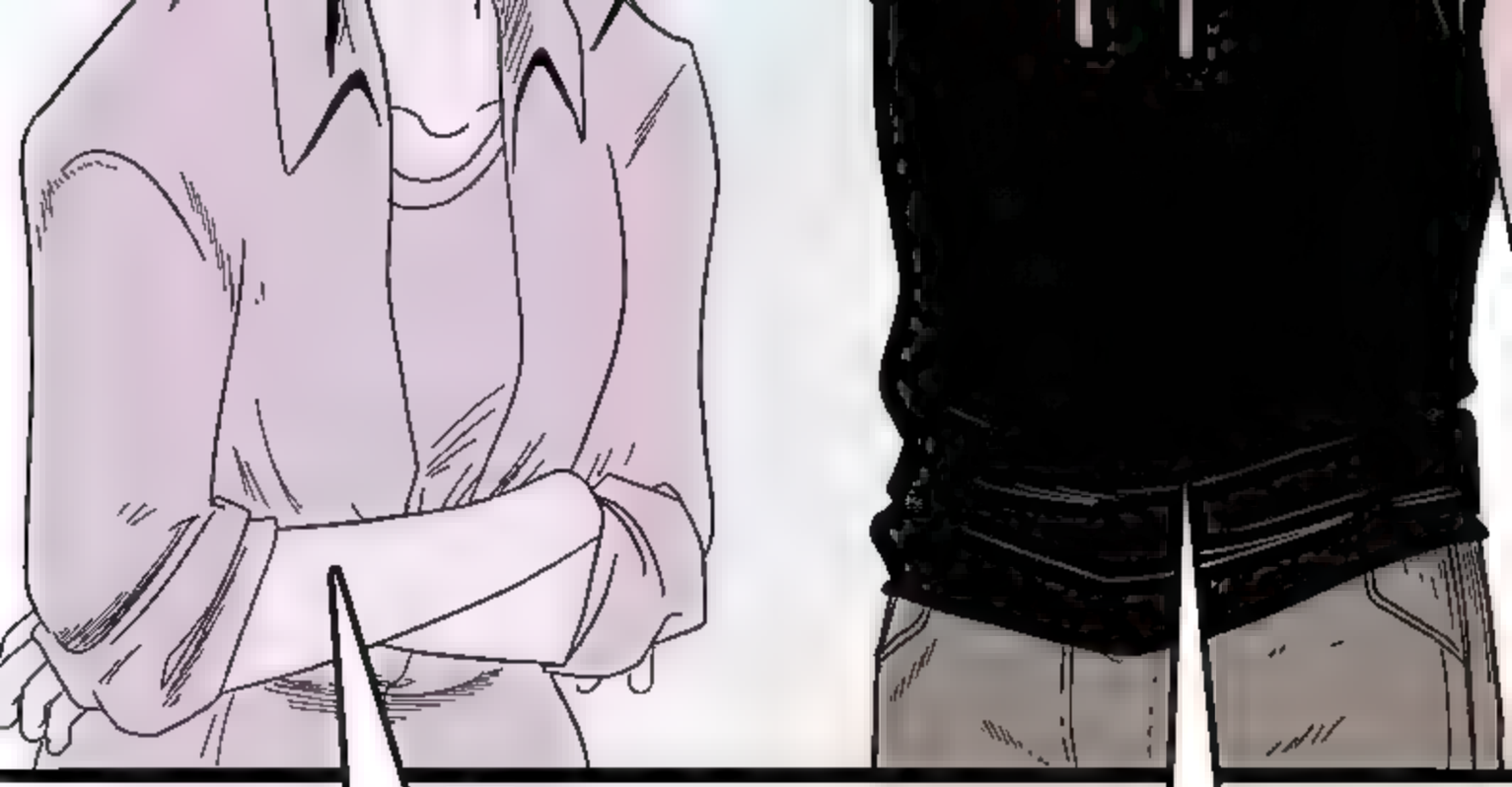
IT'S NOT
EVERY DAY YOU
SEE THE STUPIDEST
THING YOU'VE


EVER SEEN.

AW COME ON, YOU LOOK GREAT!
MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOU LOOK *NOTHING* THE OLD JEREMY OWENS.
THANK GOD FOR *THAT.*
WHEN DID YOU EVEN HAVE TIME TO BUY THIS

STUFF?
OH, UH...IT'S SOME... OLD STUFF OF MINE, ACTUALLY.

PFFFFFFF
IT WAS A PHASE, OKAY?



AH HA HA HA HA HA!

IT WAS YEARS AGO!

HA HA HA HA

HA

OH MY GOD,
PLEASE TELL ME
THERE ARE PHOTOS
OF THIS PHASE...

YOU'RE TOO LATE! I ATE ALL THE EVIDENCE! AND THE NEGATIVES!

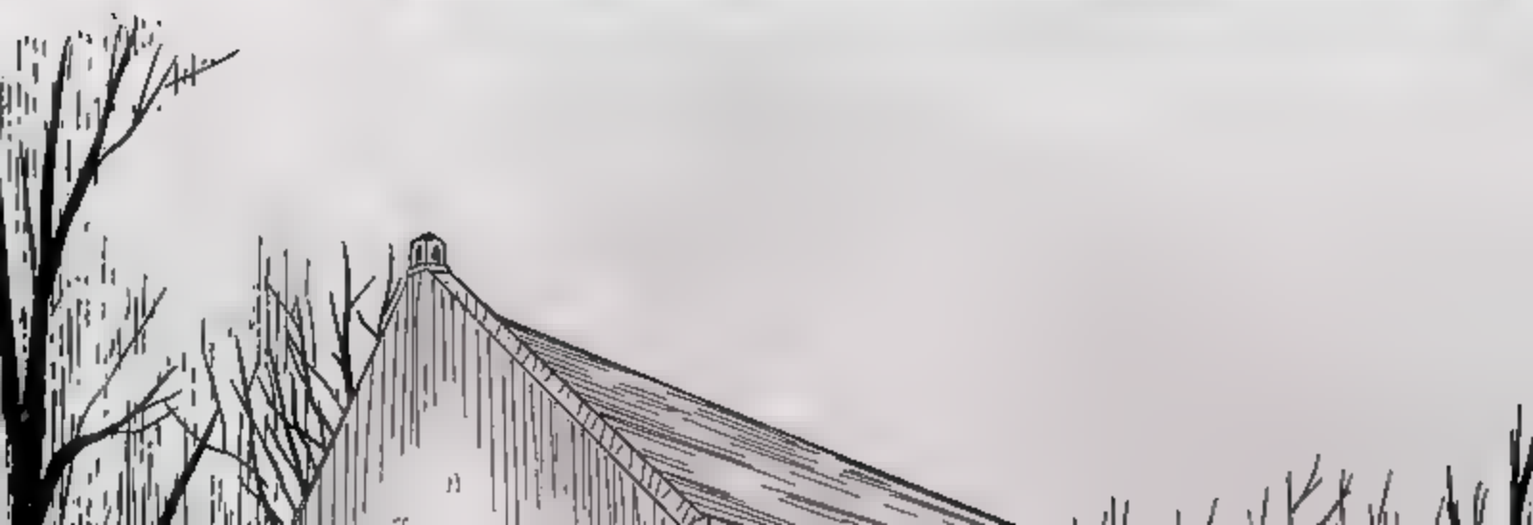
BUT YOU KEPT THE CLOTHES, DUDE?

OK FINE, I

HA
HA
OR MINE, I JUST DECIDED YOU TWO ARE WALKING TO THE LIBRARY.

IT WAS A SHORT DRIVE TO THE LIBRARY, WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE.

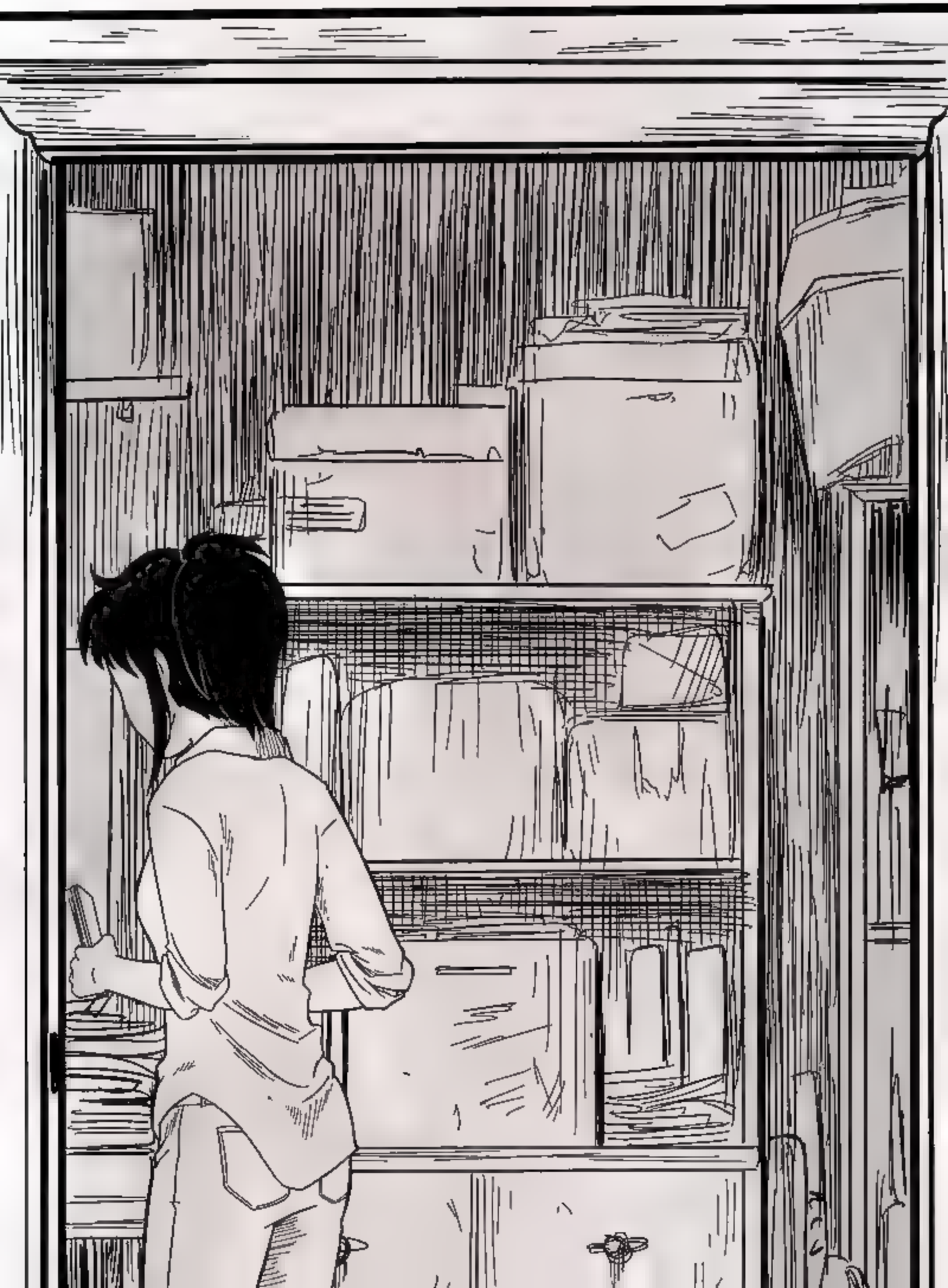
THERE WERE A FEW PEOPLE OUT AND ABOUT...BUT WITH JEREMY'S DISGUISE, NO ONE SEEMED TO CARE.



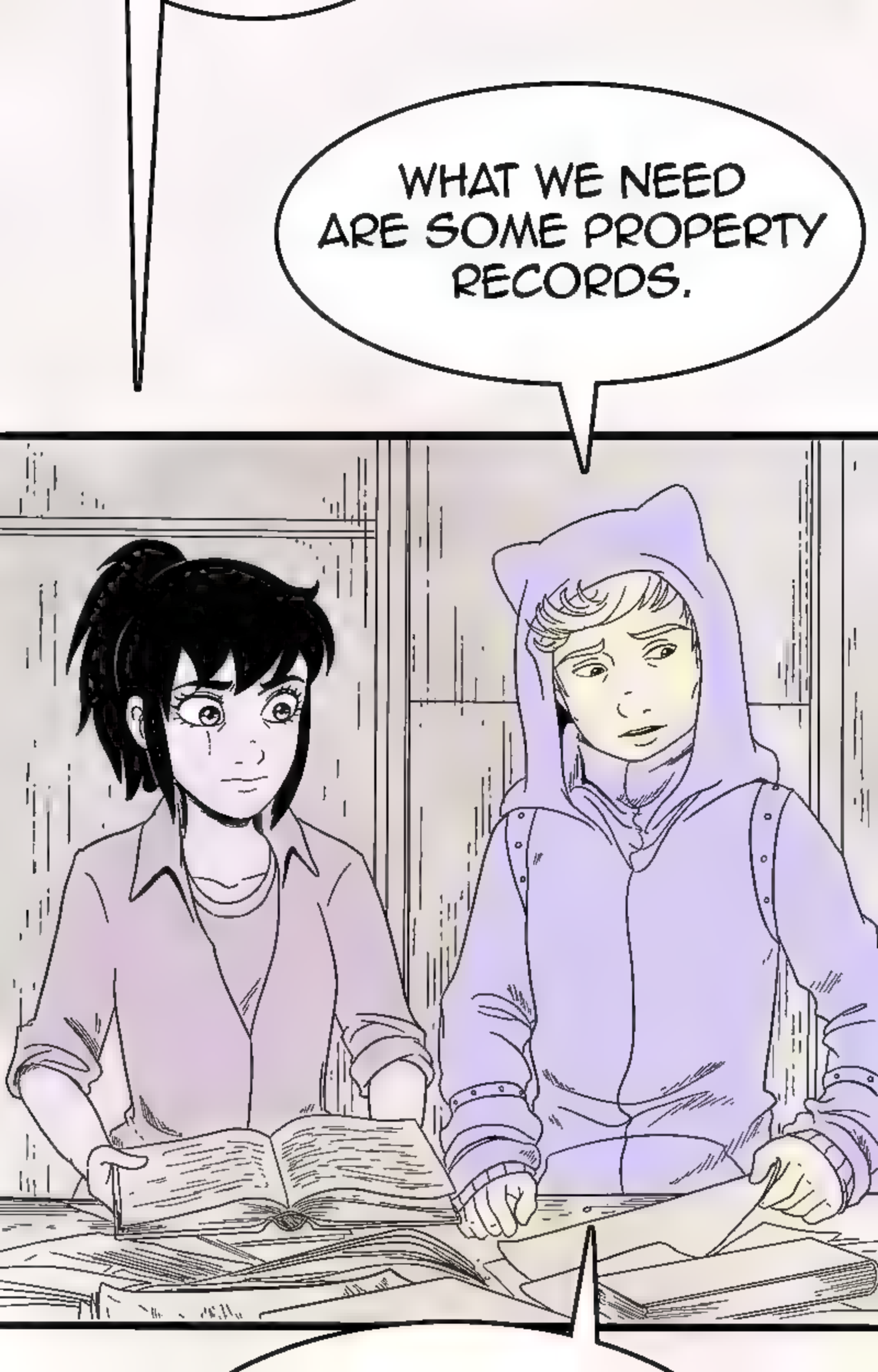
STAGTOWN
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

IT WASN'T THE BIGGEST LIBRARY, BUT THEY SEEMED TO KEEP GOOD TOWN RECORDS IN THE BACK.

WE WEREN'T EXACTLY SURE WHAT WE WERE LOOKING FOR. ANYTHING THAT MIGHT GIVE US AN IDEA OF WHAT TO DO NEXT.



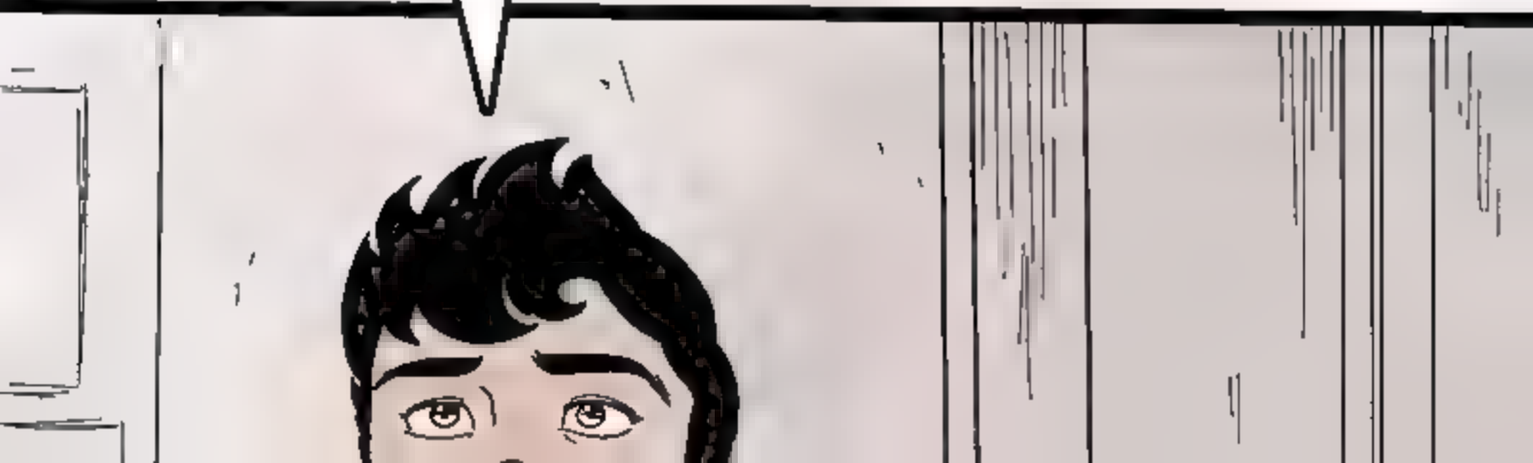
I THINK THE MINE WAS LATER THAN THAT, SO IT'S WORTH A READ.


WHAT WE NEED ARE SOME PROPERTY RECORDS.

LIKE, WHO OWNED THE MINE, WHO WAS OPERATING IT, THAT KINDA THING.

HEY, DUDE?

YEAH? YOU FIND SOMETHING?



EH, YOU KNOW THE BOOK I SAID I DIDN'T NEED?
I NEED IT. THE ONE WE LEFT ON THE SHELF, BY WHATSHISNAME CULLOUGH.

I GOTCHA, I'LL GO GET IT.

HMM
HMM HMMM...

WHATSHISNAME...

CULLOUGH...

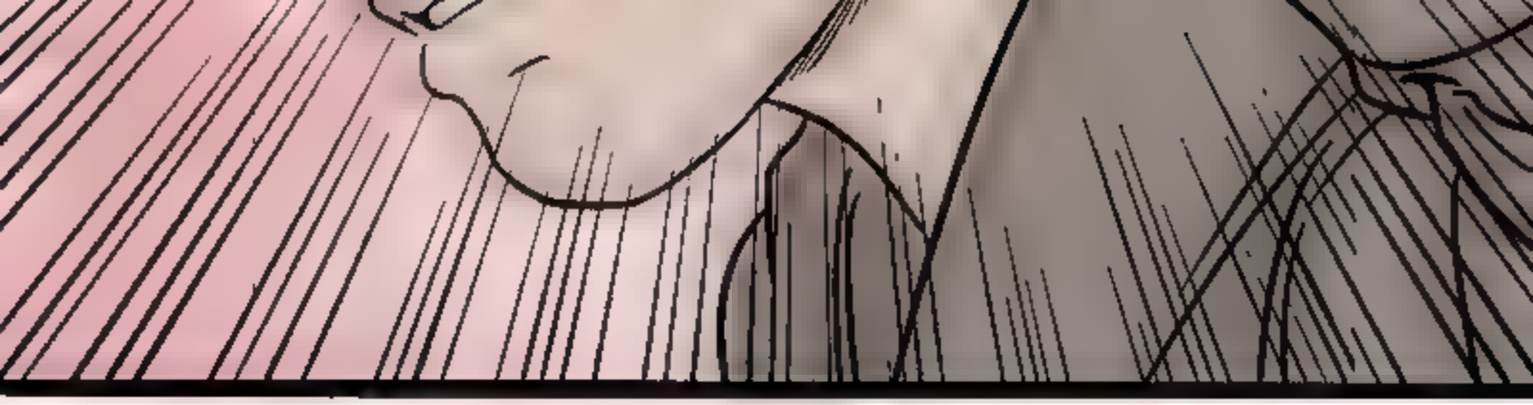
A HA!
HERE WE GO.

AAHH!

GOD, MY HEAD!

WHY DOES IT SUDDENLY HURT SO BAD?

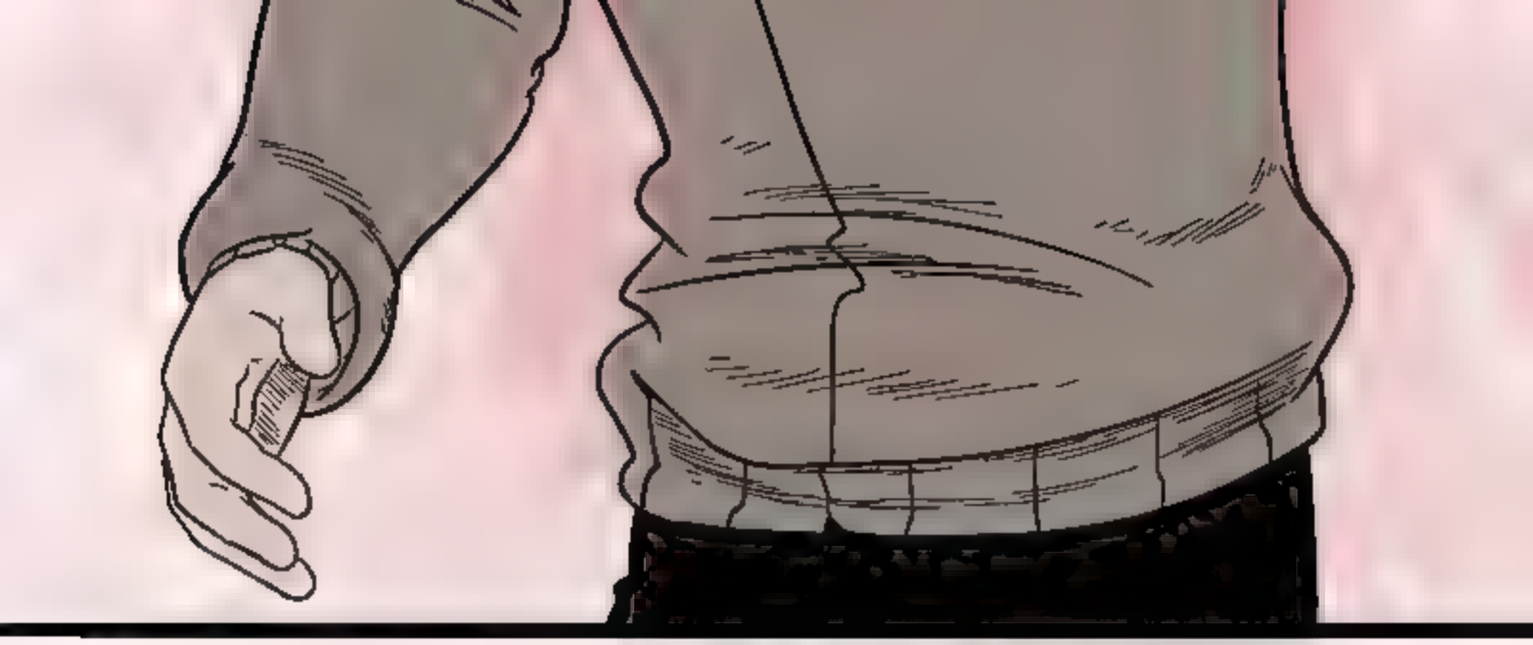
AHH, IT'S LIKE A SPLITTING HEADACHE!



OWWW...

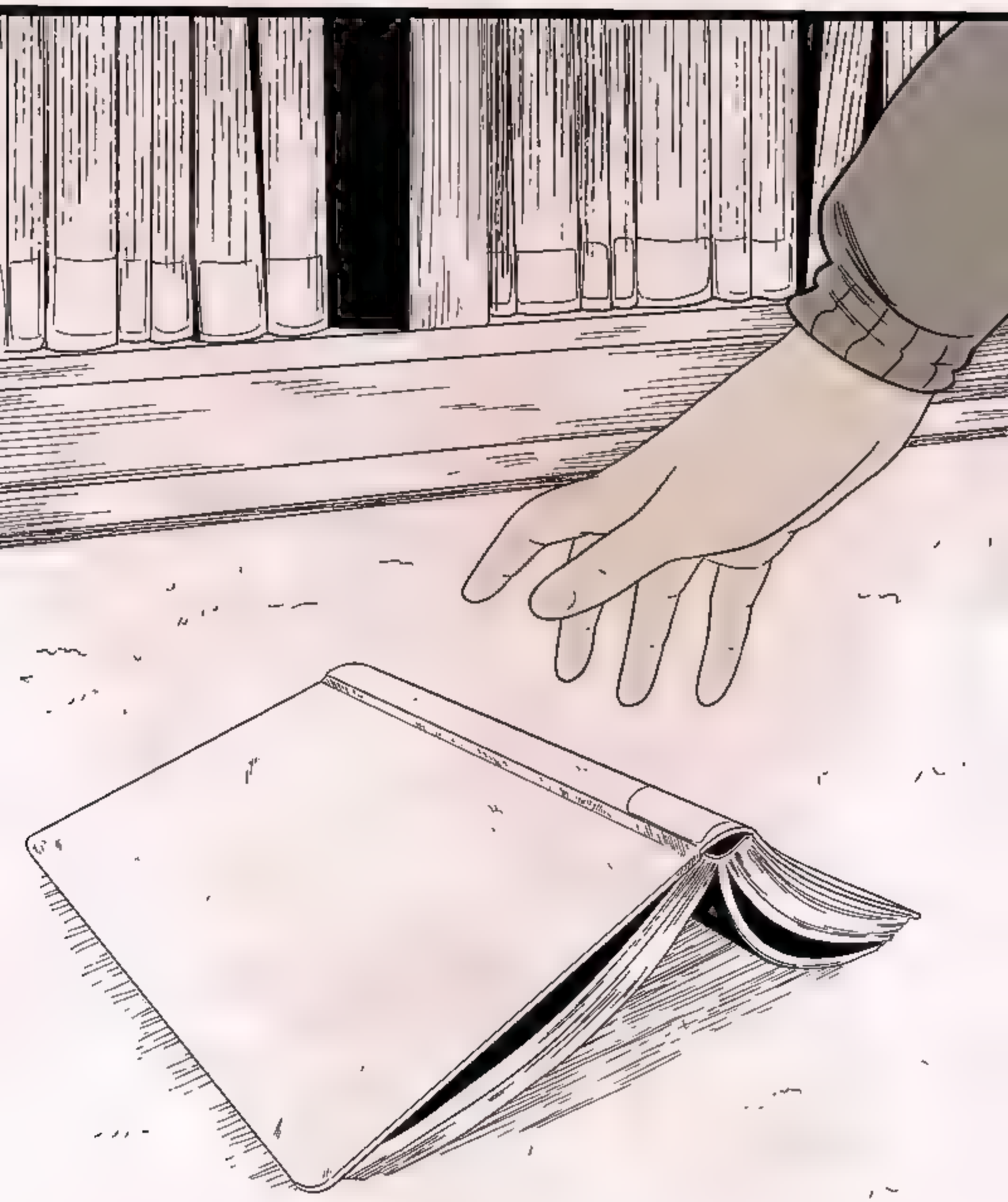
WHY IS...

AHH, IT'S IN MY NECK TOO...AM I GETTING SICK?

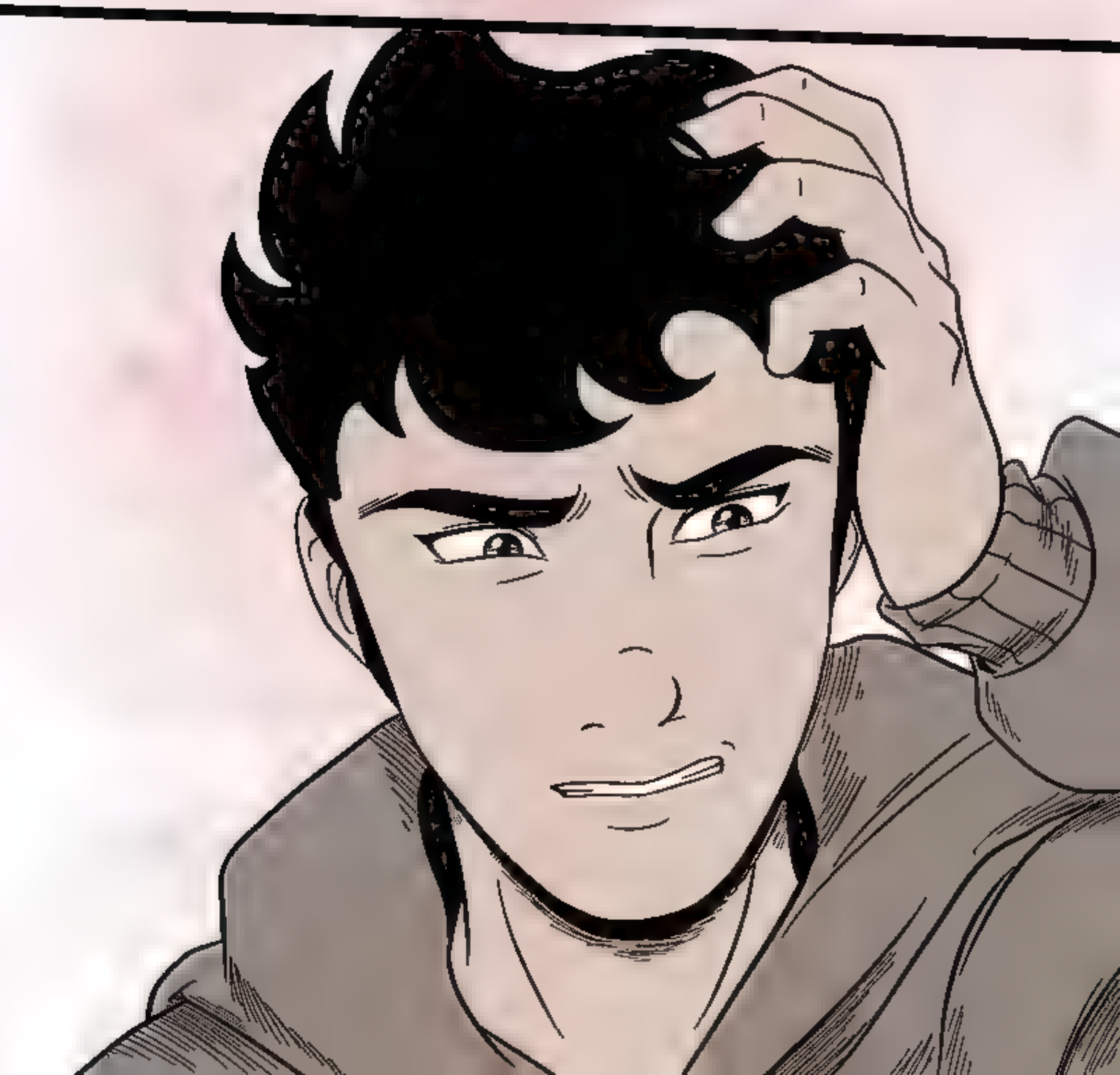


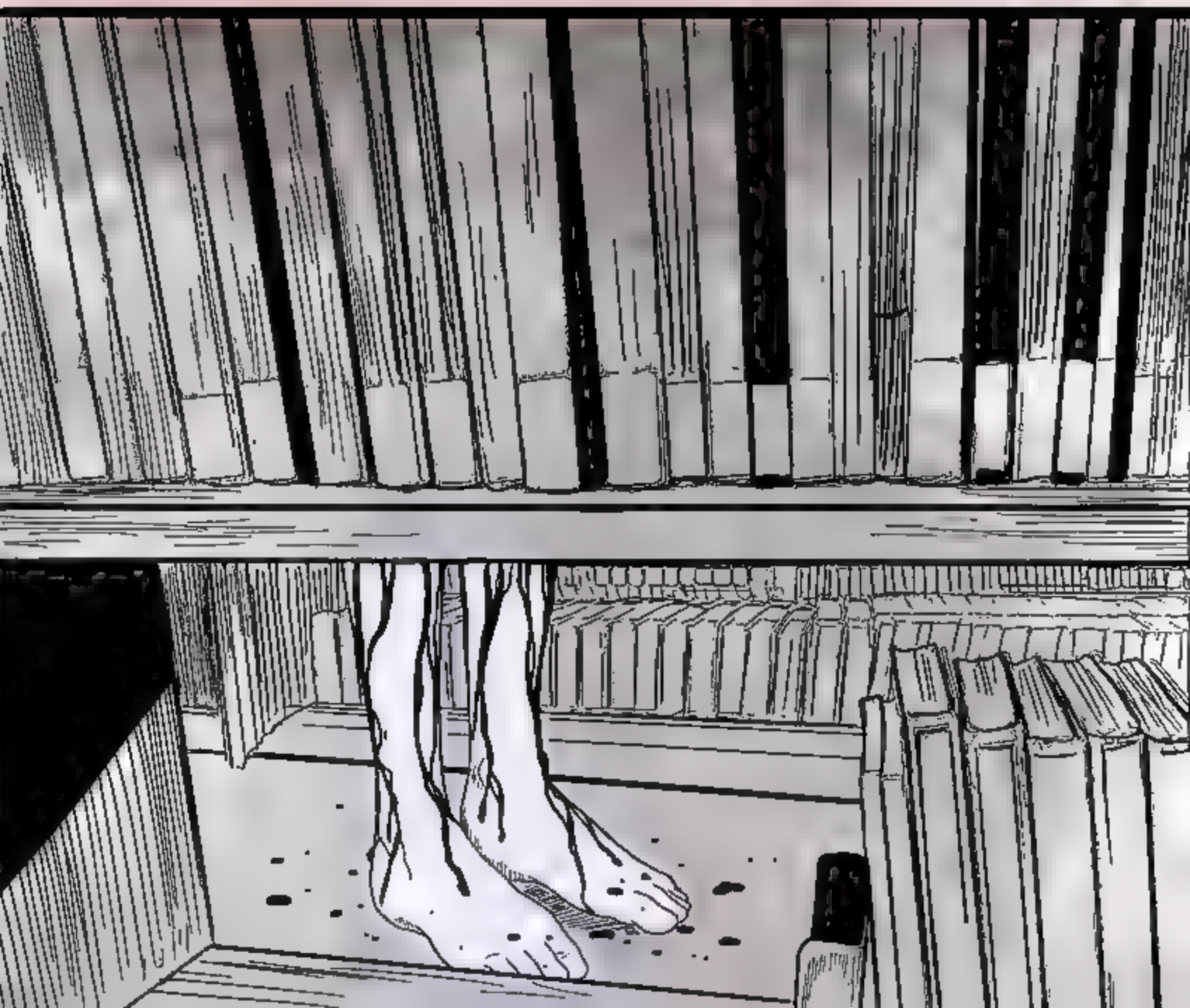
JUST...

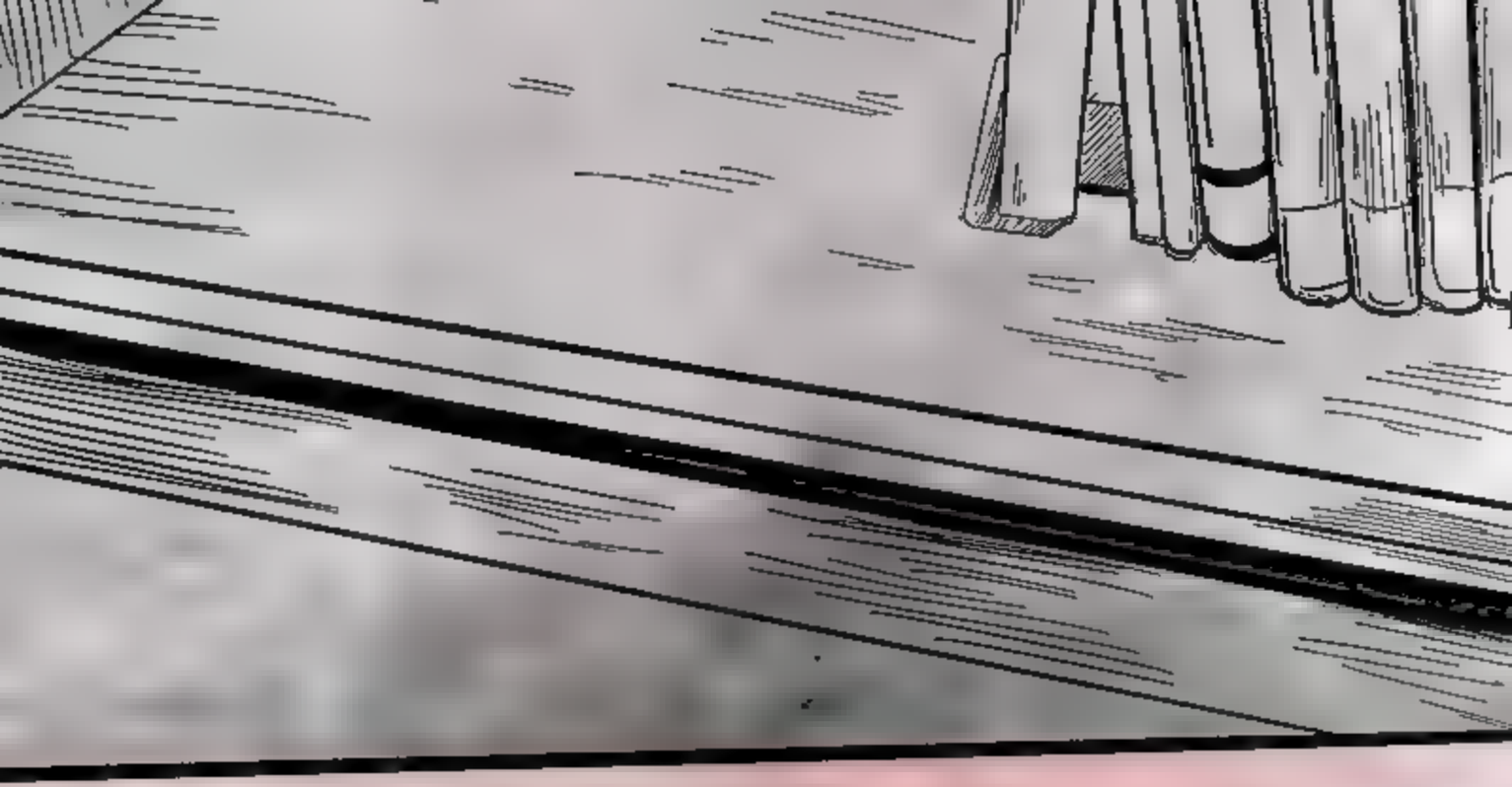
GOTTA GET BACK
TO THE OTHERS...

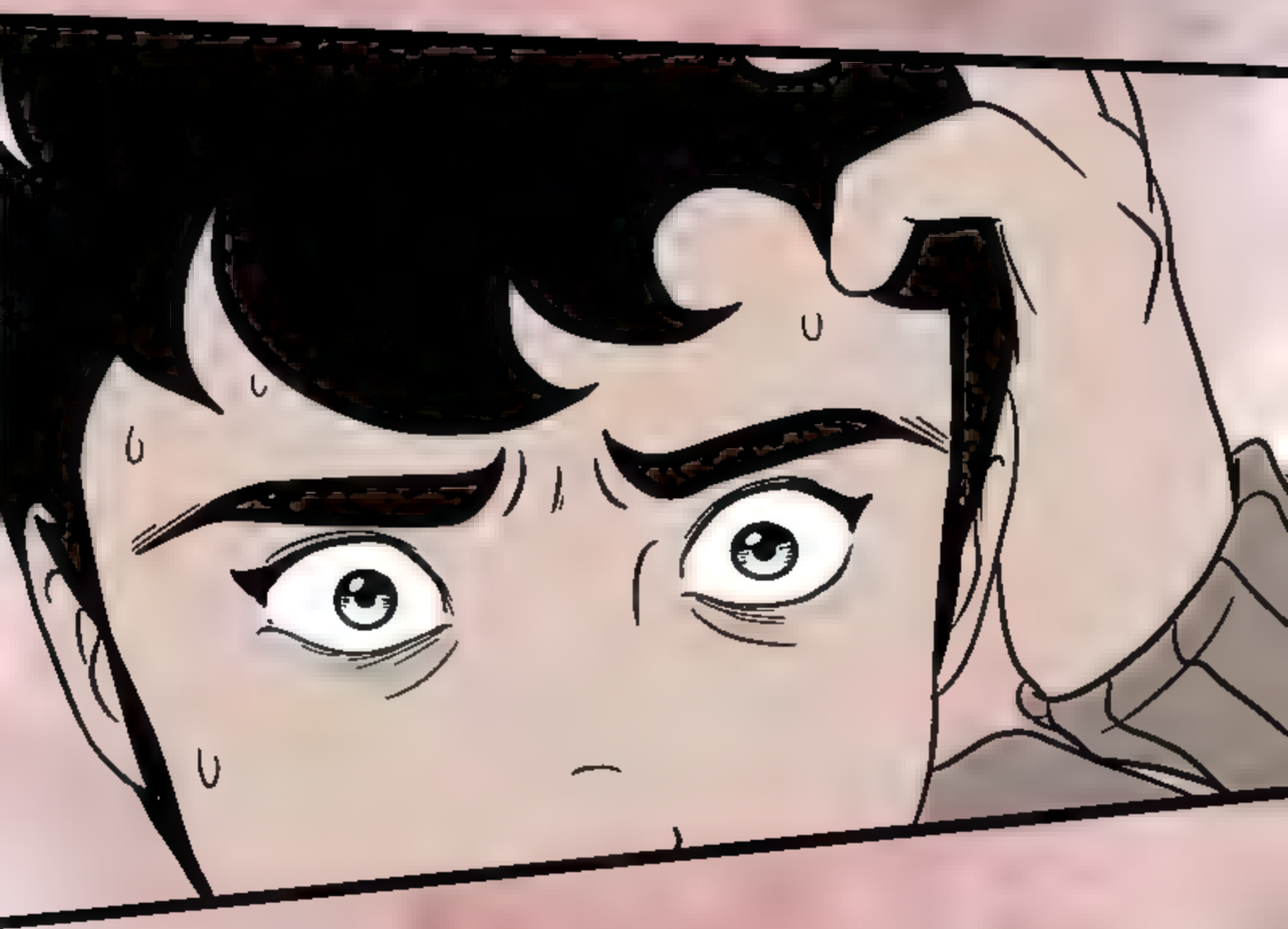


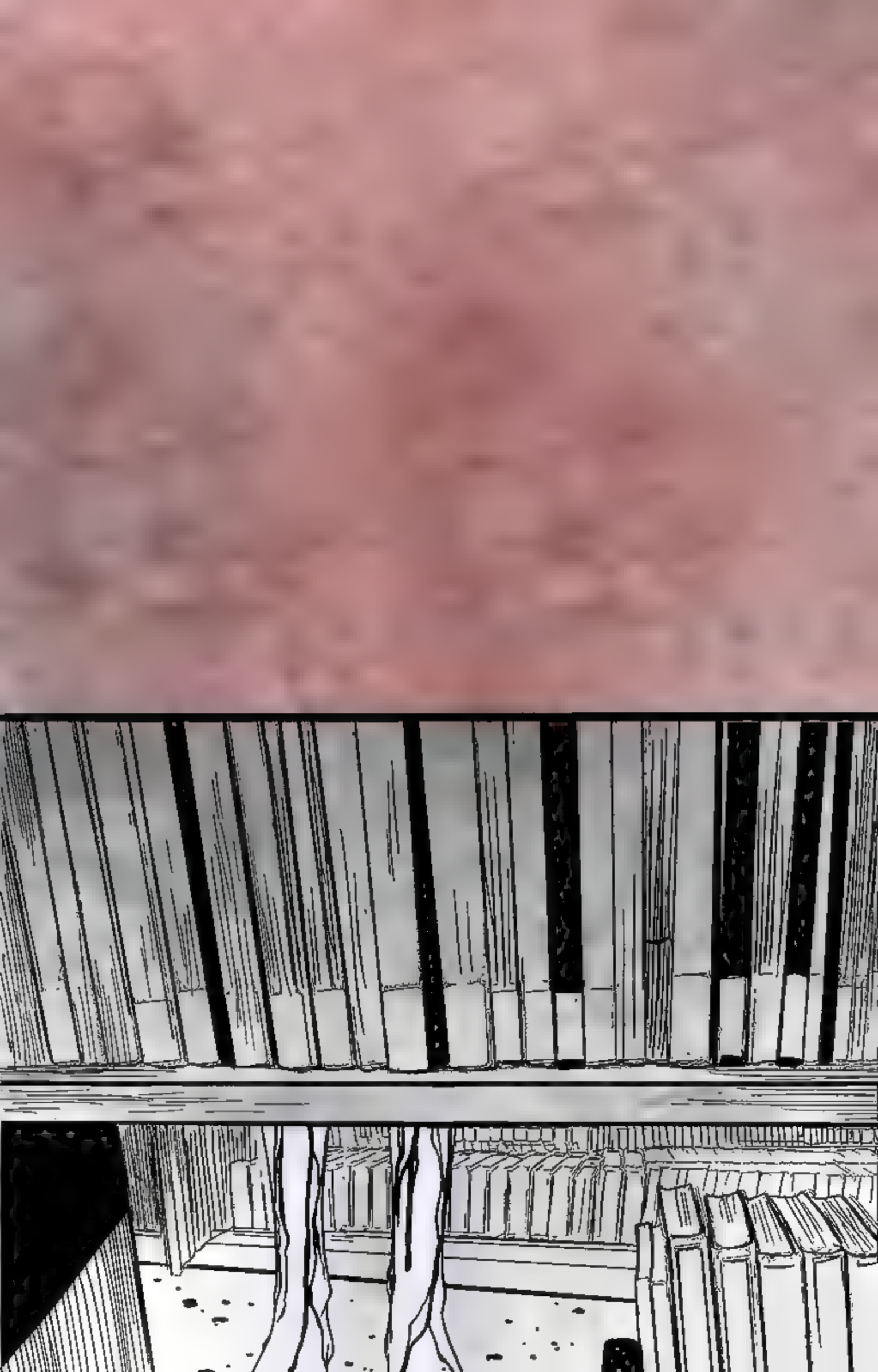
WHAT-

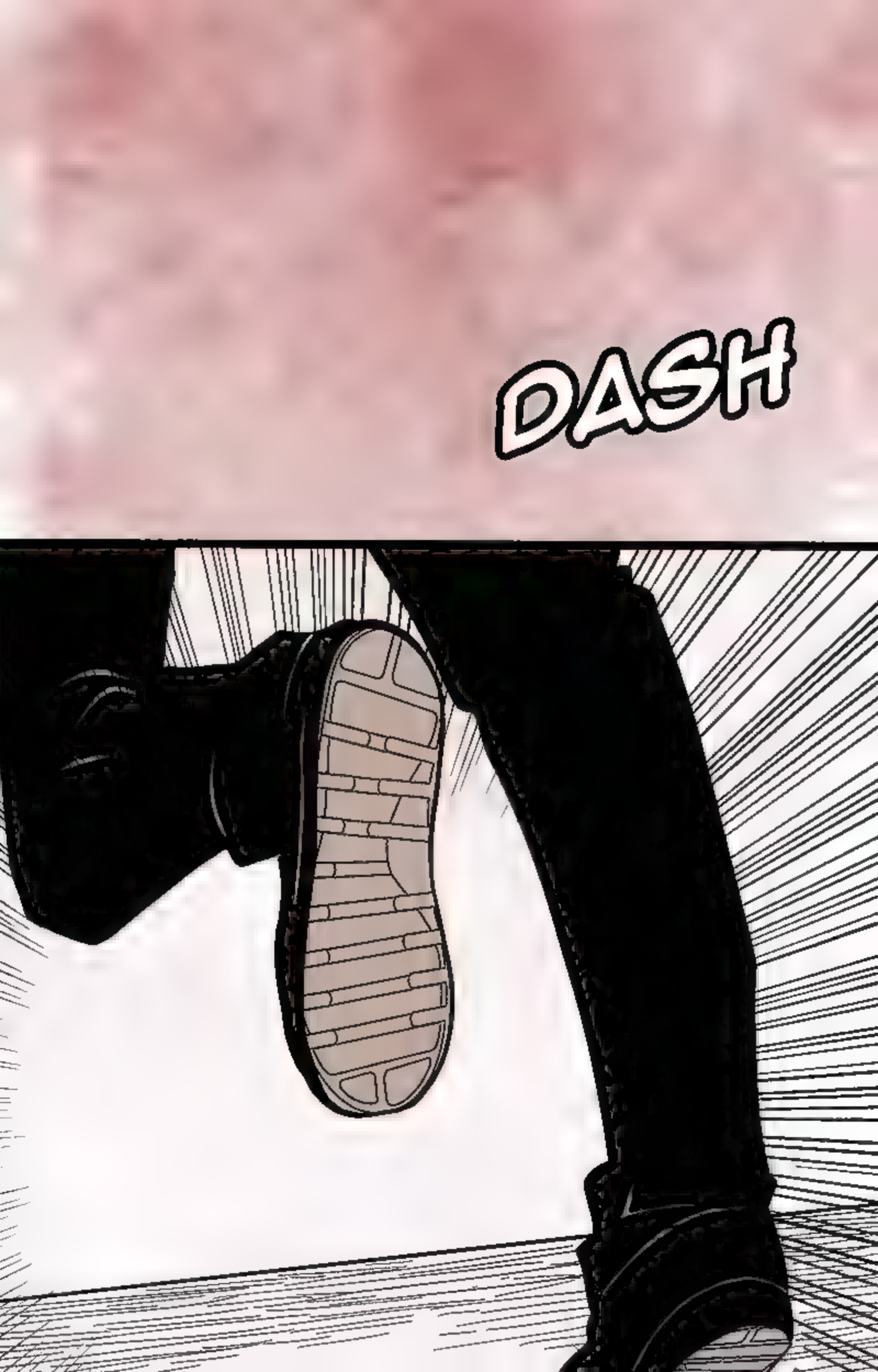


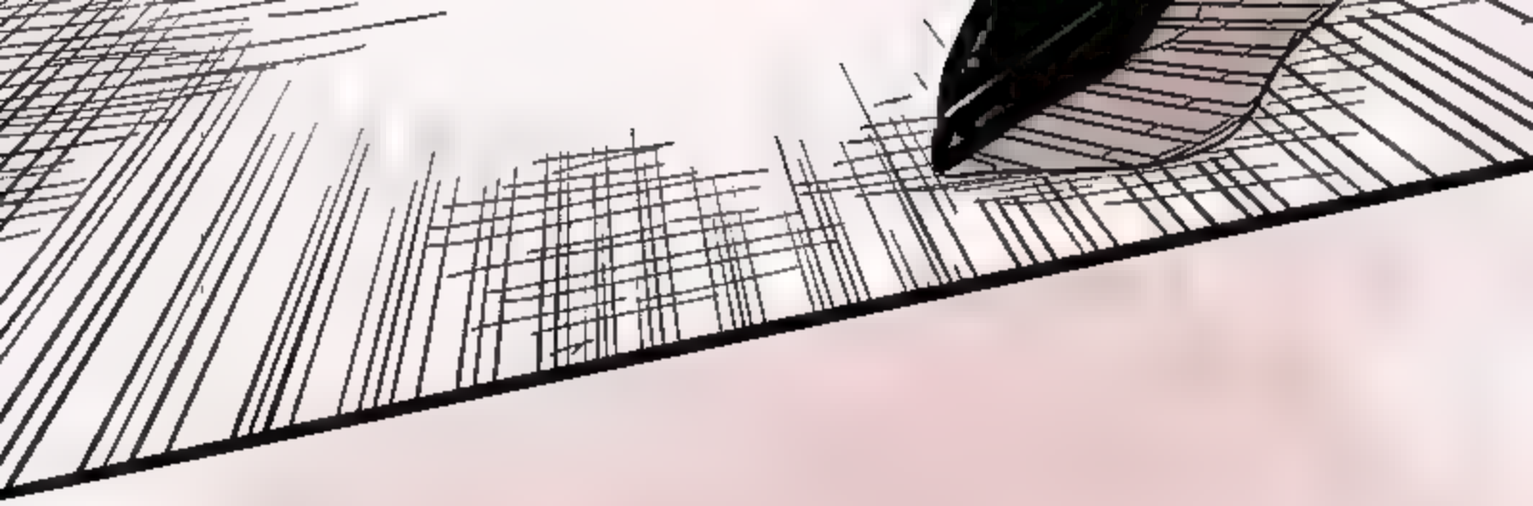









DASH



THMP

THMP

THMP

THMP

FELIX?

DID YOU FIND THE BOOK?

WE GOTTA GO.
HEY!
JUST PACK IT UP.
SHOVE

WE HAVEN'T CHECKED ANY OF IT OUT YET!

IT'S FINE, JUST GET EVERYTHING TOGETHER.

FELIX, THAT'S STEALING!

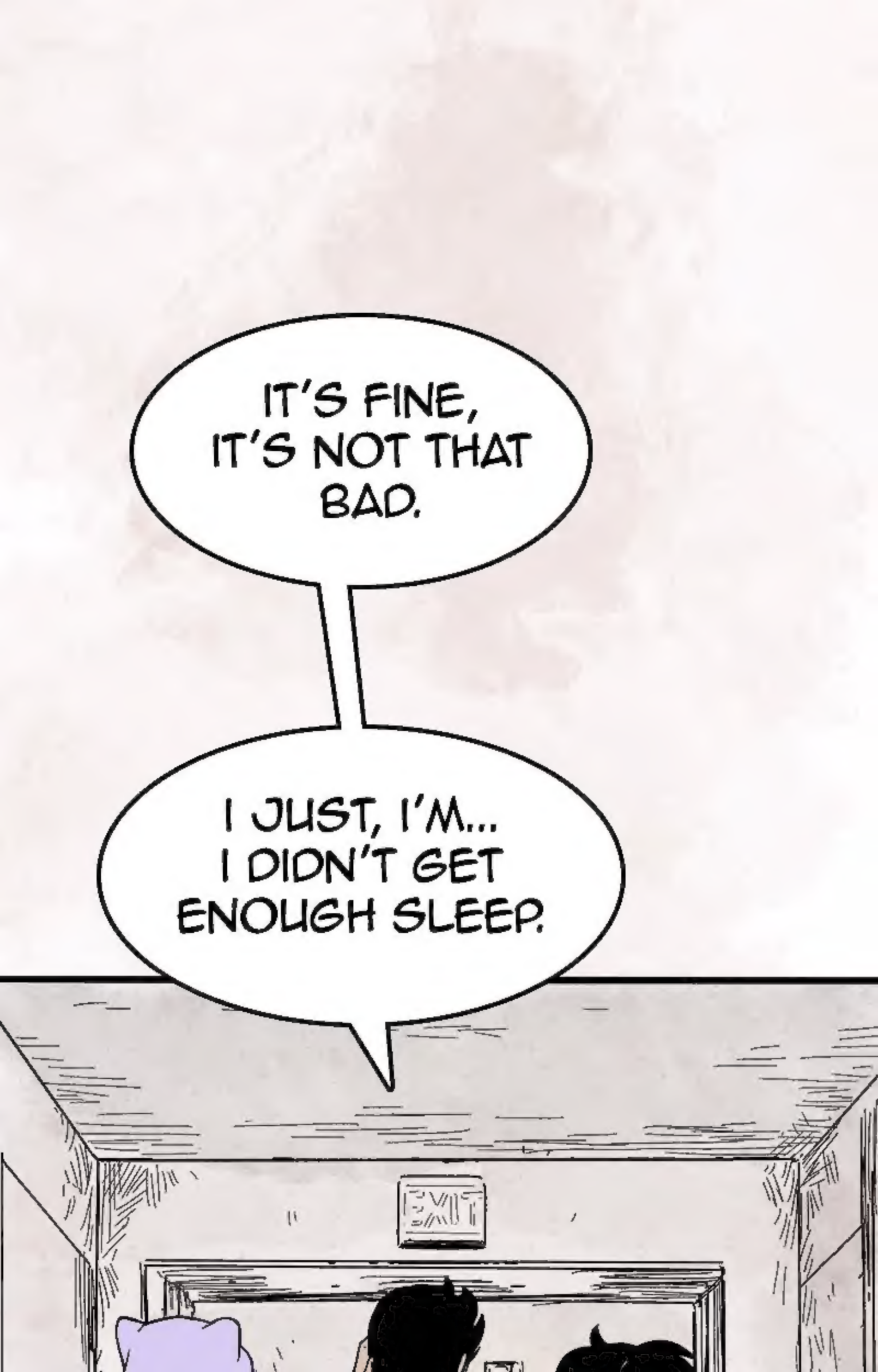
WE DON'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF DOING THINGS BY THE RULES

ANYMORE, FRANKIE!
WHY? WHAT'S GOING ON?
NEVERMIND, JUST PACK IT UP AND LET'S HEAD OU-

AAAH!
FELIX! YOU OKAY? WHAT'S WRONG?
JUST...A HEADACHE.

PLEASE, *PLEASE* CAN WE JUST GO HOME...
I...I DON'T FEEL GOOD.

YEAH.
YEAH, WE
CAN GO,
FELIX.
JUST...
TAKE IT
EASY...


IT'S FINE, IT'S NOT THAT BAD.
I JUST, I'M... I DIDN'T GET ENOUGH SLEEP.
EXIT

IT'S FINE.

EVERYTHING'S
FINE.

I'M
FINE.